

# Quarterly Hogs and Pigs

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## Hog Inventories

October 1, 2000

Producers had an estimated 12.1 million hogs on their farms as of October 1, 2000, down about 1% from the level of 12.3 million on the same day a year ago.

The number appears to have stabilized after reaching a record 12.5 million in October 1998. Inventories were down 0.7% during the third quarter of 2000 compared with the previous three months.

The breeding herd, which consists of sows and boars, was also down 0.4% from the level on October 1, 1999, and down 0.4% on a quarterly basis.

Total slaughter during the third quarter of 2000 increased 4.5% over the previous quarter, as some domestic processing plants resumed regular shifts. Live hog exports also rose 12.6% over the second quarter in response to an increased demand from some large U.S. operations which have switched from farrowing to finishing in an effort to improve their profit margins.

Average hog prices have remained high, and as of October 1, they were 31% above the same date last year. As the demand for hogs continues to escalate and feed costs remain low, producers have renewed incentive to expand production.

Farrowings, or births, in the third quarter of 2000, were up 3.3 % from the same quarter a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the fourth quarter of 2000 are up marginally over the third quarter.

### Quarterly Pigs on Farms: Canada

Class	October 1, 1999	July 1, 2000	October 1, 2000
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Breeding Stock	1,330.9	1,330.3	1,325.1
Sows and Bred Gilts	1,278.7	1,281.6	1,277.7
Boars, 6 Months Plus	52.2	48.7	47.4
All Other Pigs	10,930.0	10,900.7	10,822.8
Under 20 kgs	3,718.0	3,698.8	3,643.6
20 - 60 kgs	3,603.6	3,657.2	3,538.0
Over 60 kgs	3,608.4	3,544.7	3,641.2
Total	12,260.9	12,231.0	12,147.9

*Source: Livestock and Animal Products Section, Statistics Canada.*

**Note:** Data for this release came from the October Hog Survey, a telephone survey of 2,500 farmers who were asked to report the number of hogs they had on their farm as of October 1, 2000.

Data will be available in the *Livestock Statistics Update* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149) in November 2000.